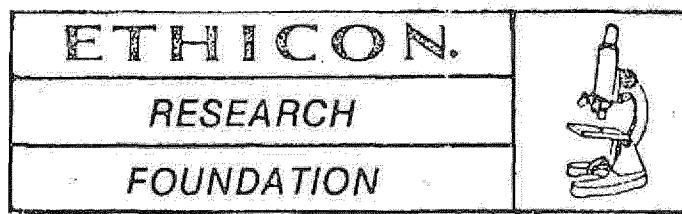


Exhibit U

83 0759

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ERF and/or the director of medical
affairs.



SOMERVILLE, NEW JERSEY 08876

To: Dr. A. Lunn

March 23, 1983

Subject: PROLENE* (POLYPROPYLENE) MICROCRACKS

cc: Mr. E. A. Block
Dr. A. W. Fetter
Dr. A. J. Levyto
Dr. R. L. Kronenthal
Mr. R. Lilenfeld
Dr. D. C. Marshall
Dr. A. Melveger
Dr. W. D. Sheffield
RDCF

Tony,

Since the latest "human retrieval" specimens of PROLENE suture showed surface microcracking (ERF Acc. No. 83-165), I thought it would be useful to review the **histological preparations from past samples more critically**. The **slides were reviewed by light microscopy using polarized light to help identify the cracking**. The results are listed below.

ERF Accession No.	PROLENE Suture Size	Site	In Vivo Residence	Fixative	Findings
70-148	not identified	abdomen	3-5 years	formalin	no cracking noted
79-220	Sample 1A 5/0	vascular graft	6 years	formalin	cracking evident
	Sample 2 5/0	vascular graft	2.5 years	formalin	no cracking noted
79-320	5/0	vascular graft	4.5 years	formalin	cracking evident
81-266	3/0, 4/0 or 5/0	vascular graft	7.5 years	formalin	no cracking noted

Attached are photographs of samples from ERF Acc. No. 79-220 and 79-320. The original 35mm slides are available. If you felt it appropriate, I'd be happy to show these at the next PROLENE Microcrack Committee meeting.

Barbara
B. Matlaga

799A/drp

Attachments

ETHICON, INC.
MAR 25 1983
RD.Central File

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79-320

SECTION F

5/0 PROLENE X270

